

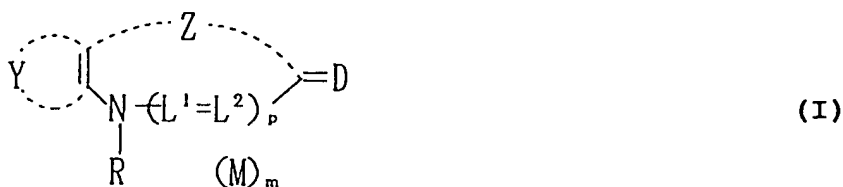
U.S. Appl. No.: 09/931,348  
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

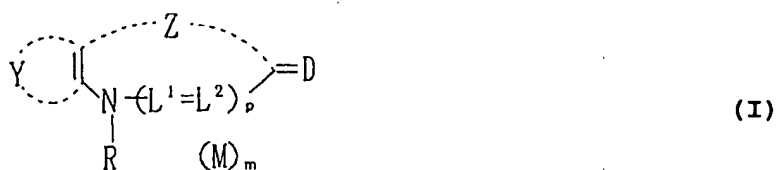
### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises a silver halide emulsion containing silver halide grains that are sensitized with at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :



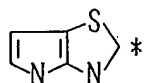
wherein Y represents a furan ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye;  $L^1$  and  $L^2$  each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A silver halide photographic material which comprises a silver halide emulsion containing silver halide grains that are sensitized with at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I):

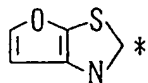


wherein Y represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L<sup>1</sup> and L<sup>2</sup> each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule; wherein the condensed ring containing Y and Z in the sensitizing methine dye represented by formula (I) is selected from the following Y-1 to Y-26, provided that Y-1 to Y-3 and Y-6 to Y-26 may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent:

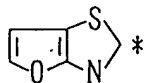
Y-1



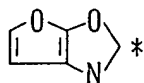
Y-2



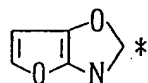
Y-3



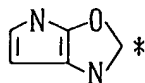
Y-6



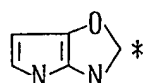
Y-7



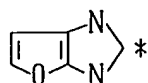
Y-8



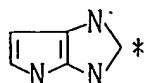
Y-9



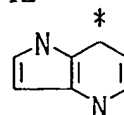
Y-10



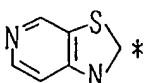
Y-11



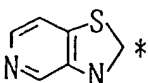
Y-12



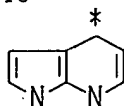
Y-13



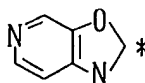
Y-14



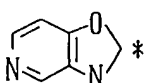
Y-15



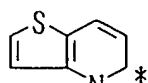
Y-16



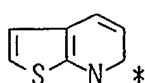
Y-17



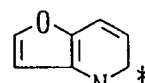
Y-18



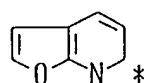
Y-19



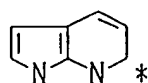
Y-20



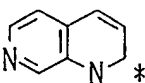
Y-21



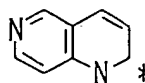
Y-22



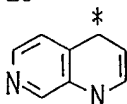
Y-23



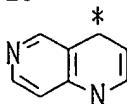
Y-24



Y-25

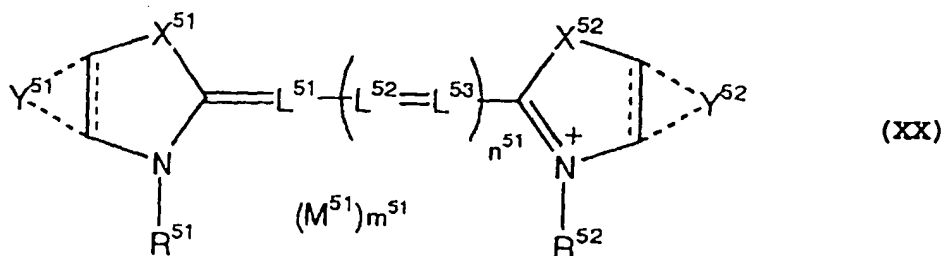


Y-26



Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):

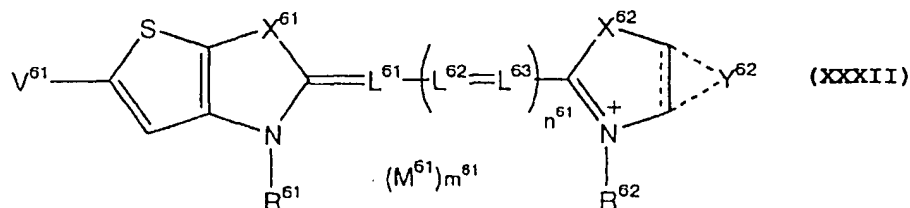
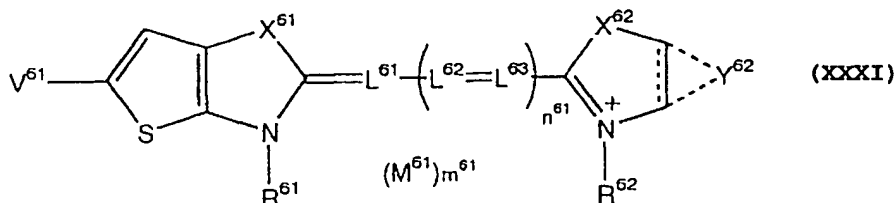


wherein  $Y^{51}$  represents a furan ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{51}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $X^{51}$  represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom and  $X^{52}$  each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a tellurium atom or a nitrogen atom;  $Y^{52}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{52}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $R^{51}$  and  $R^{52}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $L^{51}$ ,

$L^{52}$  and  $L^{53}$  each represents a methine group;  $n^{51}$  represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ;  $M^{51}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{51}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 5. (canceled).

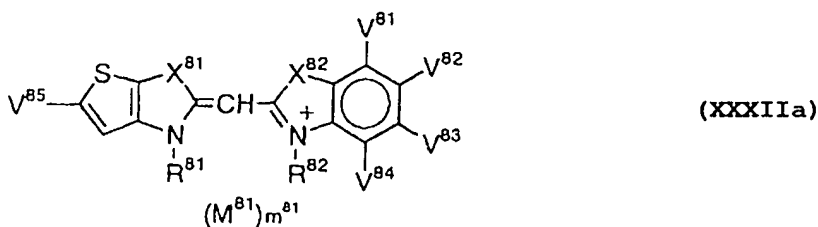
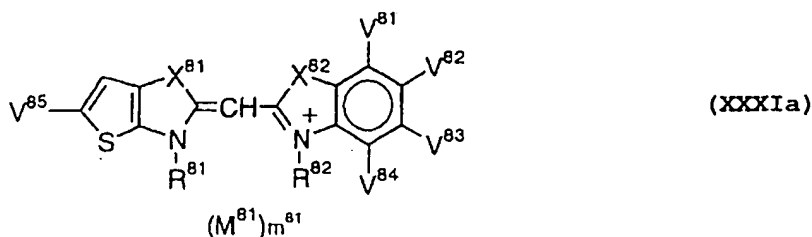
Claim 6. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one methine dye represented by the following formula (XXXI) or (XXXII):



wherein  $L^{61}$ ,  $L^{62}$  and  $L^{63}$  each represents a methine group;  $V^{61}$  represents a halogen atom;  $X^{61}$  represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom;  $X^{62}$  represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a nitrogen atom, or a carbon atom;  $Y^{62}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{62}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $R^{61}$  and  $R^{62}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a

substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $n^{61}$  represents 0 or 1;  $M^{61}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{61}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 7. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa):

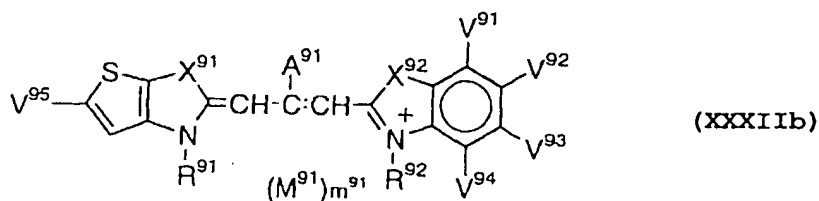
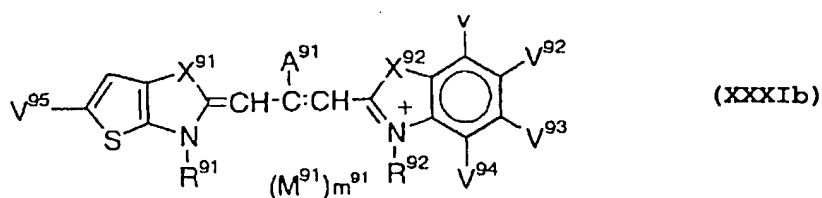


wherein  $V^{85}$  represents a halogen atom;  $X^{81}$  and  $X^{82}$  each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;  $R^{81}$  and  $R^{82}$  each represents an alkyl group substituted with an acid radical;  $V^{81}$ ,  $V^{82}$ ,  $V^{83}$  and  $V^{84}$  each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $M^{81}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{81}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 8. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa) or (XXXIIa), at least either  $R^{81}$  or

$R^{82}$  represents an alkyl group substituted with a carboxyl group or an alkanesulfonylcarbamoyl group, and the other represents an alkyl group substituted with a sulfo group.

Claim 9. (original): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (XXXI) or (XXXII) is represented by the following formula (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb):



wherein  $V^{95}$  represents a halogen atom;  $X^{91}$  and  $X^{92}$  each represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;  $R^{91}$  and  $R^{92}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $A^{91}$  represents a methyl group, an ethyl group or a propyl group;  $V^{91}$ ,  $V^{92}$ ,  $V^{93}$  and  $V^{94}$  each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $M^{91}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{91}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): A methine dye represented by formula (XXXIa), (XXXIIa), (XXXIb) or (XXXIIb).

Claim 11. (previously presented): A silver halide photographic material which comprises at least one sensitizing methine dye represented by the following formula (I) :

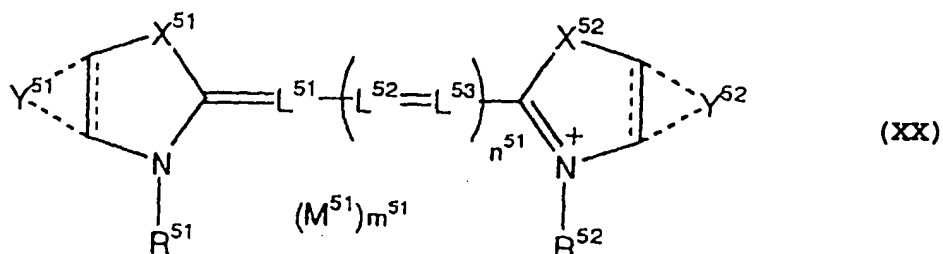


wherein Y represents a pyrrole ring, and Y may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring, or may have a substituent; the bond between two carbon atoms in which Y is condensed may be a single bond or a double bond; Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring, and Z may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring; R represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, aryl group, or heterocyclic group; D represents a group necessary to form a sensitizing methine dye; L<sup>1</sup> and L<sup>2</sup> each represents a methine group; p represents 0 or 1 ; M represents a counter ion; and m represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein Z represents an oxazole ring, a thiazole ring, an imidazole ring, a 2-pyridine ring or a 4-pyridine ring.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The silver halide photographic material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the methine dye represented by formula (I) is represented by the following formula (XX):





wherein  $Y^{51}$  represents a pyrrole ring which may be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{51}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $X^{51}$  and  $X^{52}$  each represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a nitrogen atom;  $Y^{52}$  represents an atomic group necessary to form a benzene ring or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic ring, which may further be condensed with other 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or may have a substituent, and two carbon atoms to which  $Y^{52}$  is condensed may be bonded by a single bond or a double bond;  $R^{51}$  and  $R^{52}$  each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group;  $L^{51}$ ,  $L^{52}$  and  $L^{53}$  each represents a methine group;  $n^{51}$  represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;  $M^{51}$  represents a counter ion; and  $m^{51}$  represents a number of 0 or higher necessary to neutralize the charge in the molecule.